

CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
obtaining a signature by reading executable code comprising a partial section of a steganographic program, wherein the steganographic program is configured to introduce steganographic items into a computer file;
comparing the signature with one or more computer files; and
displaying a listing of which of the one or more computer files provide a match with the signature.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the listing includes an identification of the steganographic items location in a computer system.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the executable code comprises a dynamic link library (DLL) ~~a DLL~~ file.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein an asserted file type is ignored when comparing the one or more computer files with the signature.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
checking a respective real file type by reading a start of the one or more computer files;
and
excluding files having prearranged initial byte sequences from the comparison.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein files not accessible by a system administrator are excluded from the comparison.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more computer files comprise deleted files.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more computer files comprise self-extracting executable files.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein some prearranged files are not identified in the listing despite containing code which matches the signature.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer apparatus comprising a storage device for storing one or more files, wherein the computer apparatus is configured to:

obtain a signature by reading a partial section of executable code of a program, wherein the program is configured to introduce steganographic items into a computer file;

compare the signature with the one or more files stored on the storage device; and

when a match with the signature is found, indicate which of the one or more files provide the match.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the indication incorporates an identification of the matching signature.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein ~~the code of~~ the signature comprises a continuous sequence of the partial section of the executable code[[:]].

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein one or more predetermined file types are not compared with the signature.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the partial section of the executable code comprises a start of the computer file, and wherein files having prearranged initial byte sequences are excluded from the comparison.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein files not accessible by a system administrator are excluded from the comparison.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the one or more files comprise logical wastebasket files.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the one or more files comprise polymorphic files.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein one or more predetermined files are not indicated despite containing code which matches the [[a]] signature.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein the operations further comprise ~~comprising~~ identifying a steganographic item responsible for the match.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein the signature comprises a continuous sequence of executable program code but not more than 5% and not less than 0.167% of the program.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein an asserted file type is not compared with the signature.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein the operations method further comprise-comprises:

checking a real file type by reading a start of the one or more files; and
excluding files having prearranged initial byte sequences from the comparison.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein files that are not accessible by a system administrator are excluded from the comparison.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein the one or more files comprise logical wastebasket files.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein the one or more files comprise self-extracting files.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein the operations further comprise ~~comprising~~ displaying the file which provides the match, and wherein files associated with certain file types are not displayed despite containing code which matches the signature.

31. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable medium having stored therein computer readable instructions that, in response to execution ~~if-executed~~ by a system, cause the system to perform operations ~~a-method~~ comprising:

obtaining a signature by reading executable code comprising part of a program capable of introducing steganographic items;

comparing the signature with one or more files; and

identifying a file which provides a ~~the~~ match.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the operations method further comprise ~~comprises~~ executing the one or more files, and wherein the comparison is made prior to executing the one or more files.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising running a virus checking program while comparing the signature with the one or more computer files.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the one or more predetermined file types comprise a graphic editor.

35. (Cancelled)